



Trade Waste Policy

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1.0 INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

Liquid wastes are produced by a variety of industrial, commercial and domestic activities. Weipa Town Authority (WTA) recognises that allowing the discharge of trade waste to sewer provides benefits to the economy of Weipa, and potentially to the natural environment, yet poses a risk to the sewerage system and safety of workers and the community.

The major objectives of the WTA in controlling the discharge of trade waste into the sewerage system are to:

- a) Manage discharges of trade waste to the sewerage system;
- b) To assist Weipa Town Authority and industrial and commercial businesses to meet its statutory obligations;
- c) provide an environmentally responsible liquid waste disposal system for commercial and industrial waste in a manner which safeguards public health and the environment;
- d) prevent harm or injury to employees;
- e) safeguard the sewerage system against damage, blockage or surcharging;
- f) exclude non-biodegradable, potentially harmful substances that may:
 - i. cause the treatment process to fail;
 - ii. render effluent or sludges unacceptable for reuse or disposal;
 - iii. cause physical damage to infrastructure or
 - iv. cause any other detrimental effect to the environment;
- g) recover the cost of services to commerce and industry including the cost of, transmission, treatment and damage to the sewerage system;
- h) encourage industrial development but at the same time achieve industry compliance with this policy and the Trade Waste Environmental Management Plan (TWEMP);
- i) promote water conservation;
- j) provide operational data on the volume and composition of industrial and commercial effluent to assist in the operation of the sewerage system and the design of augmentations or new sewerage systems;
- k) reduce waste by encouraging awareness of a product's life cycle and including environmental costs in the cost of the product;

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- l) encourage the management of waste in accordance with the following waste management hierarchy:
- i. waste avoidance;
 - ii. waste recycling;
 - iii. waste to energy;
 - iv. waste treatment;
 - v. waste disposal;
 - vi. effluent Reuse.

2.0 SCOPE

This policy covers all liquid waste generated by industrial, commercial or other premises.

3.0 DEFINITIONS

Trade waste	The water-borne waste from trade, industrial, commercial, medical, dental, veterinary, agricultural, horticultural, scientific research or experimental activities, excluding waste that is a prohibited substance; human waste; or stormwater.
Trade waste approval	Written approval by WTA for a person to discharge liquid trade waste to WTA's sewerage system.
Sewerage system	All parts of the WTA's sewerage infrastructure, including any sewer, access chamber, vent, engine, pump, structure, machinery, outfall or other work used to receive, store, transport or treat sewage.
WSAA	Water Services Association of Australia
WTA	Weipa Town Authority

4.0 LEGISLATION/POLICY REQUIREMENTS

The Trade Waste Policy and the supporting Trade Waste Environmental Management Plan (TWEMP) refers to the:

- Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008;
- Environmental Protection Act 1994;
- State Penalties and Enforcement Act 1999 and
- Local Government Act 2009

The Trade Waste Environmental Management Plan is subject to regular revision to ensure it remains consistent with State Government legislation.

5.0 POLICY

To ensure the continued protection of our environment and waterways, while providing a service to the commercial sector, Weipa Town Authority will conditionally accept trade waste into the sewerage system provided that it:

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- does not contain substances in amounts that are or may be toxic or hazardous to efficient operation of the sewerage system, treatment processes, personnel or the environment; and
- is not discharged in a quantity that may exceed the system's capacity to collect, transport and treat the trade waste.

Weipa Town Authority will manage trade waste using a combination of instruments, including:

- Trade Waste Environmental Management Plan
- Trade waste approvals
- Risk management process
- Sewer admission limits
- Cost reflective trade waste charging structure
- Compliance and enforcement

5.1 Trade Waste Environmental Management Plan

The Trade Waste Environmental Management Plan 2014 (TWEMP) comprehensively describes the structure and processes for the management of trade waste, and is publicly available. The TWEMP is the responsibility of the Manager Wastewater Operations and will be reviewed every 3 years.

5.2 Trade Waste Approvals

Weipa Town Authority is not obliged to accept trade waste to sewer, but may do so, provided that:

- a) The proposed discharge meets the criteria stipulated in council's Trade Waste Environmental Management Plan;
- b) The proposed discharge volumes are such that the system has adequate capacity to collect, transport and treat the waste and
- c) The discharger has a current Trade Waste Approval and complies with the conditions of that approval.

Any person wishing to discharge trade waste to the sewer must apply, on behalf of the property owner, for a Trade Waste Approval from Weipa Town Authority. Trade Waste Approvals are issued to the owners of a property from which trade waste is discharged and the person producing trade waste and is both property and activity specific.

When a business that produces trade waste changes ownership, the existing approval is terminated and the new tenant/owner must apply for a new approval.

In the event of a property changing ownership where the property owner has one or more trade waste customers on the site, the approvals will remain current provided there is:

- No change in ownership to the trade waste producer and no change to the trade waste producer's business and
- The new property owner provides signed consent for existing approvals.

A change or variation in a trade waste producer's business that impacts on the quality or quantity of trade waste requires reassessment by Weipa Town Authority and possible renewal of approval conditions. Trade

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waste Permit Holders must advise Weipa Town Authority in writing, as soon as practical after a change occurs which may result in the quality or quantity of the trade waste being discharged from the business.

5.3 Sewer Admission Limits

Weipa Town Authority has developed a suite of standard sewer admission limits designed to ensure that trade waste discharges do not cause a detrimental impact to the sewerage system, environment or safety. A trade waste discharger may be permitted a variation from these limits, provided that it can be demonstrated that there will be no detrimental impact.

5.4 Risk Management

Each trade waste customer will be categorised depending on the type of trade waste generating activity.

Trade waste customers are also assessed for the level of risk posed to the system. The risk rating feeds the approval process and provides a consistent and equitable basis for scheduling compliance activities of approved dischargers.

5.5 Trade Waste Charging

To ensure recovery of costs for collection, transport, treatment and administration of trade waste, Weipa Town Authority will levy trade waste fees and charges in accordance with the Local Government Act 2009 and as specified in the TWEMP and WTA's annual utility charges.

These charges will be levied on the Trade Waste Generator. Exceptions to this include where multiple Trade Waste Generators operate on a singular property and trade waste sub meters are not in place to enable Weipa Town Authority to correctly charge a Trade Waste Generator accurately. In these cases, the owner of the property from which trade waste is discharged will be levied.

Utility charges for Category One and Category Two premises will not be charged to businesses by the Weipa Town Authority until the 2018/2109 financial year. Trade Waste Permit fees will be charged every financial year commencing the adoption of the Trade Waste Policy and TWEMP.

5.6 Penalties & Enforcement

Weipa Town Authority will undertake routine compliance inspections of each trade waste customer. Where necessary, Weipa Town Authority staff will exercise their rights to access as described in legislation.

A trade waste discharger who is found to be non-compliant with their trade waste approval, or to not have a trade waste approval, will be managed in accordance with the TWEMP and relevant legislation. This may include cancellation of approval and/or prosecution if appropriate.

6.0 RELATED DOCUMENTS

Trade Waste Environmental Management Plan 2017
WSAA Australian Sewage Quality Management Guidelines 2012

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